

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

GAC-01 RSR-01 /092 W
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P R 091615 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 855
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 THE HAGUE 1142

E. O. 11652: DECON MARCH 9, 1974
TAGS: PGOV, NL
SUBJECT: NEW DUTCH GOVERNMENT: FORMATEUR BURGER
SEES " LIGHT AT END OF TUNNEL "

REF: THE HAGUE 1060

1. SUMMARY: FORMATEUR BURGER MET FOR FOUR HOURS
MARCH 8 WITH KVP FLOOR LEADER ANDRIESSEN. COMMUNIQUE
ISSUED AFTER MEETING SPOKE OF " CONSTRUCTIVE EXCHANGE
OF VIEWS". BURGER HAS SET SESSION WITH LABOR LEADER
DEN UYL TODAY (MARCH 9) AND WILL TALK TO NEW FLOOR
LEADER OF ARP AANTJES TOMORROW (MARCH 10). AFTER
SESSION WITH ANDRIESSEN, FORMATEUR SAID FOR FIRST
TIME IN EFFORT " HE COULD SEE LIGHT IN CABINET FORMATION".

END SUMMARY

2. FORMATEUR BURGER BEGAN MARCH 8 BY MEETING WITH HIS
ARP CABINET CANDIDATES MINISTER BOERSMA AND SENATOR DE
GAAY FORTMAN. PURPOSE OF SESSION WAS TO DISCUSS WAYS
BURGER COULD CONCILIATE ARP PARLIAMENTARY GROUP
WHICH WAS MIFFED BY HIS SUCCESS IN SECURING THE
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TWO ARP LUMINARIES FOR A DEN UYL CABINET. AFTER THEIR SESSION WITH FORMATEUR, BOERSMA AND DE GAAY FORTMAN MET WITH ARP PARLIAMENTARY GROUP. AT CONCLUSION THIS MEETING ARP ANNOUNCED IT COULD SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATE IN DEN UYL GOVT BUT ON BASIS THREE CONDITIONS SPECIFIED EARLIER BY KVP: (A) 9 (LEFT- WING) TO 7 (CONFESSIONAL) DISTRIBUTION OF MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIOS, (B) DEPUTY PM' S SLOT FOR A CONFESSIONAL, AND (C) AGREEMENT ON GOVERNMENT PROGRAM. FLOOR LEADER AANTJES AGREED TO MEET WITH BURGER SATURDAY MARCH 10 AND TO HOLD SPECIAL ARP PARLIAMENTARY GROUP MEETING IN UTRECHT SAME DAY TO DISCUSS MEETING.

3. ASSURED BURGER HAD MENDED FENCES WITH ARP, KVP' S ANDRIESSEN BEGAN SESSION WITH FORMATEUR WHICH LASTED FOUR HOURS. COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT CONSLUSION OF MEETING NOTED " CONSTRUCTIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS". FORMATEUR' S SPOKESMAN COMMENTED ON BURGER' S BEHALF: " AFTER 100 DAYS, FOR THE FIRST TIME THERE IS SOME LIGHT TO BE SEEN IN THE CABINET FORMATION." ANDRIESSEN REFUSED COMMENT ON HIS DISCUSSION WITH BURGER. FORMATEUR ANNOUNCED HE WOULD MEET WITH LABOR FLOOR LEADER DEN UYL MARCH 9.

4. KVP PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ' S SECRETARY HAD TOLD EMBOFF MARCH 7 KVP GENERALLY PLEASED WITH DIRECTION FORMATION TAKING. HE LISTED THREE CONDITIONS FORMER STATE SECRETARY WESTERTERP SPECIFIED TO DCM (PARA 7 REFTEL) BUT THOUGHT THERE WAS ROOM FOR COMPROMISE. FOR EXAMPLE, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH COULD BE SPLIT TO PROVIDE THE ADDITIONAL CONFESSIONAL PORTFOLIO. ON CANDIDATES FOR VICE PREMIER KVP SOURCE MENTIONED FINANCE MINISTER NELISSEN, WESTERTERP, PROFESSOR STEENKAMP AND ANDRIESSEN. HE STRESSED KVP WANTED STRONG MAN ABLE TO CONTEND WITH DEN UYL. ON BALANCE HE THOUGHT ANDRIESSEN WOULD BE LEAST OBJECTIONABLE TO LEFT WING. ON PROGRAMMATIC DIFFERENCES HE THOUGHT AGREEMENT COULD PROBABLY BE REACHED ON KEEPING VOLATILE ABORTION QUESTION ON SHELF AND COMPROMISE FOUND ON DECREASE IN DEFENSE EXPENDITURES LEFT- WING PROPOSING. THIS RELATIVELY OPTIMISTIC VIEW ALSO TAKEN BY KVP PARTY MANAGER (ALWAYS PROPONENT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CATHOLIC - LABOR COOPERATION), IN CONVERSATION WITH

EMBOFF MARCH 9.

5. ERIK JURGENS, DEPUTY FLOOR LEADER FOR THE PPR
(RADICALS) IN SECOND CHAMBER IN CONVERSATION WITH
EMBOFF MARCH 8 WAS ALSO OPTIMISTIC ABOUT BURGER' S
EVENTUAL SUCCESS BUT HE THOUGHT CONFESSIONAL DEMANDS
QUITE UNREALISTIC. JURGENS SAID CONFESSIONALS
MUST NOT HAVE VICE PREMIERSHIP. ON HEARING NAMES OF
PROSPECTIVE KVP VICE PMS JURGENS STATED ALL UNACCEPTABLE
SINCE THEY WERE " FIRST LINE" POLITICIANS. JURGENS
SAID THINGS HAD BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET ON LEFT WING
NOTING AMSTERDAM LABOR PARTY LEADER PELLE MUG HAD
RECEIVED LITTLE BACKING WHEN HE DEMANDED EXPLANATION
OF LEFT WING " CONCESSIONS" TO CONFESSIONALS. HIS OWN
PARTY (PPR) WAS FIRMLY BEHIND THE BURGER EFFORT.
JURGENS SAID D 66 CONGRESS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 10 IN
BRED A, WAS UNLIKELY TO CREATE PROBLEMS. JURGENS SAID

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D 66 IS SO DIVIDED AND WEAK THAT IT IS ABOUT AS
IMPORTANT AS CHU. WITH FORMATION GOING WELL AND PROSPECT
OF D 66 PARTICIPATION IN GOVT POSSIBLE, VAN MIERLO
AND GRUYTERS WING OF PARTY SHOULD SURVIVE ANY CHALLENGE
FROM PARTY' S RIGHT WING AND THERE NO " LEFT WING" IN
D 66 TO SECOND GUESS DEN UYL' S FORMATION STRATEGY.

6. COMMENT: DESPITE THE EUPHORIA AND SENSE OF BREAK-THROUGH NOW SURROUNDING BURGER' S FORMATION, HE STILL HAS SOME HARD BARGAINING BEFORE HIM. HE MUST CONVINCE THE CONFESSIONALS THAT THEY REALLY ARE " EQUAL PARTNERS" IN DEN UYL EXTRA- PARLIAMENTARY GOVT. THIS WOULD SEEM TO REQUIRE MEETING AT LEAST SOME OF THEIR MINIMUM DEMANDS. AT THE SAME TIME HE MUST ALLOW DEN UYL TO MAINTAIN " FACE" WITH HIS EXTREME RANK AND FILE AND THIS ARGUES AGAINST FULFILLING CONFESSIONALS CONDITIONS. ONE FACTOR HELPING THE FORMATEUR IS THE FEELING IN MANY QUARTERS THAT IF HE CAN' T DO IT, IT MAY ALSO PROVE TOO MUCH FOR ANOTHER FORMATEUR, THE ALTERNATIVE THEN BECOMING ELECTIONS BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.
TANGUY

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